

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

ON

BOGUE INLET CHANNEL EROSION RESPONSE PROJECT

EMERALD ISLE, NORTH CAROLINA

This Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is submitted in accordance with the Federal Environmental Assessment and Review Process (EARP) to determine how to best meet the needs of the people and the environment. The EIS document contained herein was developed to evaluate the resources and considerations involved in responding to the erosion occurring along the west end of the Town of Emerald Isle, North Carolina.

The Bogue Inlet Channel Erosion Response Project is being proposed to relocate the main ebb channel in Bogue Inlet approximately 3,550 feet west, to a more central location between the west end of Bogue Banks and the east end of Bear Island. The main ebb channel through Bogue Inlet presently occupies a position juxtaposed to the west end of the Town of Emerald Isle, causing severe erosion that threatens development in the subdivision known as The Pointe and the Town infrastructure along The Pointe shoreline.

The applicant's preferred alternative includes: the relocation of the main ebb channel to a central location that would restore the channel to a position it occupied in the mid to late 1970's, and to eliminate the erosive impact of tidal currents on the east shoulder of the inlet. A portion of the dredged material would be used to close the existing channel, with the remaining dredged material used to nourish 4.0 miles of shoreline on the west end of the Town of Emerald Isle.

The project purpose described in Section 1, identifies the history of Bogue Inlet, the project needs and objectives, and applicable laws. Section 2 (Scoping and Issues) includes a description of the public's, as well as the Federal, State and local agencies' involvement in the development of the project. Section 2 is designed to disclose comments, issues, and concerns elicited by the public and State and Federal agencies in the review of the proposal and the development of the EIS. Issues and concerns raised during this process include: shorebirds, colonial and other waterbirds, submerged aquatic vegetation, and shellfish. Project alternatives are described in Section 3, which includes the project rationale and alternatives considered. The affected environment is described in Section 4 and includes the area of study, affected environment and resources. This section describes the environmental resources that could be affected by the project alternatives if they were implemented. Environmental consequences are discussed in

Section 5, which includes environmental commitments and the applicant's preferred alternative. Section 5 discusses the anticipated changes to the existing environmental including direct, indirect, and cumulative effects. Additionally, a Global Information Systems (GIS) database has also been developed in support of this document, contained under a separate cover.

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